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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,704	01/26/2004	William D. Ramsden	87069JLT	9205

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EXAMINER

WALKE, AMANDA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/764,704

Applicant(s)

RAMSDEN ET AL.

Examiner

Amanda C. Walke

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson et al (6,440,649 or 6,573,033) in view of Masuta (1.542.505) or Taguchi (JP 02-048659).

Simpson et al disclose X-radiation sensitive photothermographic imaging materials contain X-radiation sensitive phosphors in association with photosensitive silver halide. These phosphors provide an increase in imaging sensitivity and improved image contrast. Both intensifying and storage phosphors can be used. Silver-containing photothermographic imaging materials that are developed with heat and without liquid development have been known in the art for many years. Such materials are used in a recording process wherein an image is formed by imagewise exposure of the photothermographic material to specific electromagnetic radiation (for example, visible, ultraviolet, or infrared radiation) and developed by the use of thermal energy. These materials, also known as "dry silver" materials, generally comprise a support having coated thereon: (a) photosensitive catalyst (such as silver halide) that upon such exposure provides a latent image in exposed grains that are capable of acting as a catalyst for the subsequent formation of a silver image in a development step, (b) a non-photosensitive source of reducible silver ions, (c) a reducing composition (usually including a developer) for the reducible silver ions, and (d) a hydrophilic or hydrophobic binder. The latent image is then developed by

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application of thermal energy. The non-photosensitive source of reducible silver ions is a material that contains reducible silver ions. Typically, the preferred non-photosensitive source of reducible silver ions is a silver salt of a long chain aliphatic carboxylic acid having from 10 to 30 carbon atoms, or mixtures of such salts. Such acids are also known as "fatty acids" or "fatty carboxylic acids". Silver salts of other organic acids or other organic compounds, such as silver imidazoles, silver tetrazoles, silver benzotriazoles, silver benzotetrazoles, silver benzothiazoles and silver acetylides have also been proposed. The reducing agent (or reducing agent composition comprising two or more components) for the source of reducible silver ions can be any material, preferably an organic material, that can reduce silver (I) ion to metallic silver.

Conventional photographic developers such as methyl gallate, hydroquinone, substituted hydroquinones, hindered phenols, amidoximes, azines, catechol, pyrogallol, ascorbic acid (and derivatives thereof), leuco dyes and other materials readily apparent to one skilled in the art can be used. When storage phosphors are incorporated within the photothermographic materials, the initial exposure to X-radiation is "stored" within the phosphor particles. When the material is then later exposed a second time to stimulating electromagnetic radiation (usually to visible light or infrared radiation), the "stored" energy is then released as an emission of visible or infrared radiation. The photothermographic materials may then be developed by heating. BaFBr disclosed herein is such a storage phosphor. It may also be desirable to use the photothermographic materials of this invention in combination with one or more conventional fluorescent intensifying screens (also known as radiographic phosphor panels) or metal intensifying screens. Such screens are well known in the art. For example, a fluorescent intensifying screen can be positioned in "front" of the photothermographic material so exposing X-radiation passes through

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the screen before striking the photothermographic material. Other conventional arrangements of screens and photothermographic materials in imaging assemblies or cassettes would be readily apparent to a skilled artisan. While the references teach that ascorbic acid and derivatives may be employed as reducing agents, the reference is silent with respect to the specific compounds that fall within this category.

Masuta disclose a photothermographic silver halide film comprising non photosensitive source of reducible silver (preferred has an imino group; benzotriazole in examples), reducing agent meeting the instant claim limitations, a binder, and photosensitive silver halide (preferably silver bromide and/or iodide). Given the teachings of the reference, the instant claims are anticipated by the reference.

Taguchi disclose a thermally developable photosensitive material comprising a binder, photosensitive silver halide (silver bromoiodide per examples on page 556), a dye/ reducing agent (which meets the instant claim limitations), and a tetrazole compound.

Given the teachings of the references, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare the material of Simpson et al choosing to employ the ascorbic acid reducing agents of Masuta or Taguchi with reasonable expectation of achieving a material having increased sensitivity/ speed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/25/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has argued that the Matsuta and Taguchi may not be combined with the Simpson reference. With respect to Matsuta, applicant has argued that the reference fails to teach the

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aqueous-based material and that the compound of the reference fails to would not function in a material similar to that of the instantly claimed material with a declaration demonstrating this. Firstly, the reference is relied upon solely for its teachings that ascorbic compounds are employed in any photothermographic material as reducing agents, not for its teaching of the material itself. Additionally, while the applicant may be persuasive with respect to the 1-ascorbyl palmitate, the reference further teaches compounds that meet the limitations of the reference by having an alkyl group or aryl group as a substituent (see compounds II-IV). Therefore the rejection is maintained. With respect to Taguchi, a similar argument about the material is provided. However, the reference is relied upon solely for its teachings that ascorbic compounds are employed in any photothermographic material as reducing agents, not for its teaching of the material itself, and it is the position of the examiner that reducing agents are well known compounds employed in color and black and white photothermographic materials. Applicant has also argued that the cited references fail to address the problem the instant invention aims to solve. From the MPEP: The prima facie case of obviousness is not undermined simply because applicant's motivation for teaching to add the compound to the material differs from that of the prior art's motivation. In re Dillon, 919 F.2d 688, 692-93, 16 USPQ2d 1897, 1901 (Fed. Cir. 1990) (in banc), cert. Denied, 500 U.S. 904 (1991).

For these reasons the rejection of record is maintained.

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**


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MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda C. Walke whose telephone number is 571-272-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 5:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 571-272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Amanda C Walke
Examiner
Art Unit 1752

ACW
November 14, 2005